

Appln No. 10/045,663

Amdt date May 17, 2004

Reply to Office action of February 25, 2004

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 7-14, and 17 are pending. Dependent claims 9, 11-14 and 17 are amended to change their dependency. Claims 1-6, 15-16, and 18-21 are cancelled.

Claims 7, 8 and 10 are allowed. Dependent claims 9, 11-14 and 17 are amended to change their dependency from the cancelled claims to the allowed claims 7, 8 and 10. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the dependent claims 9, 11-14 and 17 are also allowable over the cited references, as being dependent from allowable independent claims and for the additional limitations they include therein.

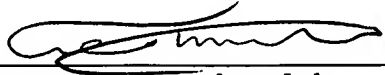
Claims 1-3, 5-6, 9, 11-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C § 102(e) as being fully anticipated by Taguchi et al (US 6,617,777); and claim 4 is rejected under 35 U.S.C § 103(a) as being obvious over Taguchi. Claims 1-6, 15-16, and 18-21 are now cancelled.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that this application is now in condition for allowance, and accordingly, reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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